

Serial No. : 09/870,235  
Filed : May 30, 2001

AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (original) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles, comprising the steps of:

providing a radio transmitter connected to a vehicle navigation system in each rental vehicle;

providing a radio transmitter connected to a rental facility computer in a rental vehicle facility;

receiving information from a user and establishing a rental term which is stored in the rental facility computer;

verifying user information when the user arrives at the rental vehicle facility;

exchanging data by sending the rental term and user information from the rental facility computer to the vehicle navigation system through the radio transmitters and sending current vehicle condition information including milage and gas level from the vehicle navigation system to the rental facility computer;

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starting a rental period of the rental vehicle after the step of exchanging the data;

monitoring usage of the rental vehicle and storing data relating to the usage of the rental vehicle in a memory provided in the vehicle navigation system;

sending the data relating to the usage of the rental vehicle to the rental facility computer through the radio transmitters for calculating a rental fee; and

returning the rental vehicle by confirming the data relating to the usage of the rental vehicle and paying the rental fee by the user.

9. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 8, wherein the step of monitoring the usage of the vehicle comprises the steps of:

determining a distance traveled by the vehicle since the start of the rental and recording data relating to the distance in the memory in the vehicle navigation system; and

determining if an accident has occurred and recording data relating to the accident in the memory in the vehicle navigation system.

10. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 9, wherein the step of recording data relating to the accident includes a step of recording data concerning a location, time, and destination in the memory in the vehicle navigation system.

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11. (original) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 9, wherein the step of recording data relating to the accident includes the steps of detecting a signal from an air bag sensor indicating a deployment of air bags in the rental vehicle and recording data concerning a location, time, and destination in the memory in the vehicle navigation system.

12. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

determining condition of the rental vehicle when the rental vehicle is returned to the rental vehicle facility based on the data relating to the usage of the rental vehicle received by the rental facility computer and based on visual inspection; and

transmitting the condition of the rental vehicle to the vehicle navigation system through the radio transmitters for confirmation by the user.

13. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 11, wherein the step of determining the condition of the vehicle includes the steps of:

determining an amount of fuel consumed in the rental vehicle during the rental period;

determining a distance traveled by the rental vehicle during the rental period; and

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determining whether the rental vehicle requires service as a result of the rental.

14. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 8, wherein the radio transmitter in the rental vehicle or in the rental vehicle facility is a wireless transceiver based on Bluetooth standard.

15. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 8, wherein the radio transmitter in the rental vehicle or in the rental vehicle facility is a wireless transceiver based on IEEE 802.11b standard.

16. (previously amended) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 8, wherein the radio transmitter in the rental vehicle or in the rental vehicle facility is a wireless transceiver based on HomeRF standard.

17. (original) A method for managing a fleet of rental vehicles as defined in Claim 8, wherein the rental vehicle is provided with a Bluetooth transceiver using a 2.45GHz frequency band and a Bluetooth enabled telephone.

18. (original) A rental vehicle management system, comprising:

a vehicle radio transmitter connected to a vehicle navigation system in each rental vehicle;

a station radio transmitter connected to a rental facility computer in a rental vehicle facility;

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means for receiving information from a user and establishing a rental term which is stored in the rental facility computer and verifying user information when the user arrives at the rental vehicle facility;

means for exchanging data by sending the rental term and user information from the rental facility computer to the vehicle navigation system through the radio transmitters and sending current vehicle condition information including milage and gas level from the vehicle navigation system to the rental facility computer through the radio transmitters;

wherein the vehicle navigation system monitors usage of the rental vehicle and stores data relating to the usage of the rental vehicle in a memory and sends the stored data to the rental facility computer through the radio transmitters for calculating a rental fee, thereby returning the rental vehicle by confirming the usage of the rental vehicle and paying the rental fee by the user.

19. (previously amended) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 18, wherein the vehicle navigation system determines a distance traveled by the rental vehicle and records data relating to the distance in the memory in the vehicle navigation system; and determines if an accident has occurred and records data relating to the accident in the memory in the vehicle navigation system.

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20. (previously amended) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 19, wherein the data relating to the accident to be stored in the vehicle navigation system includes data concerning a location and time of the accident and destination of the rental vehicle before the accident.

21. (previously amended) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 19, wherein the vehicle navigation system detects a signal from an air bag sensor indicating a deployment of air bags in the rental vehicle and records the data concerning a location and time of the accident and destination of the rental vehicle before the accident.

22. (original) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 18, wherein the radio transmitter in the rental vehicle or in the rental vehicle facility is a wireless transceiver based on Bluetooth standard.

23. (original) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 18, wherein the radio transmitter in the rental vehicle or in the rental vehicle facility is a wireless transceiver based on IEEE 802.11b standard.

24. (original) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 18, wherein the radio transmitter in the rental vehicle or in the rental vehicle facility is a wireless transceiver based on Home RF standard.

25. (original) A rental vehicle management system as defined in Claim 18, wherein the rental vehicle is provided with a

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Bluetooth transceiver using a 2.45GHz frequency band and a mobile telephone enabled with Bluetooth protocol.